bidding mandatory for future private power projects requiring the techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority (CEA), with effect from 18.2.1995.

(b) The Government has circulated detailed guidelines/Procedures to be followed in cases of competitive bidding involving request for qualifications, request for proposals, evaluation methodology, implementation agreements etc.

(c) No difficulties are envisaged in following the competitive bidding route for the future projects with some of the projects with MoUs still pending clearances as the two are clearly mutually exclusive modes of soliciting proposals.

Minimum balance required for State Bank account

2035. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India and its subsidiaries and other nationalised Banks have revised the minimum balance required to be retained in a saving account, with cheque book facility and otherwise during the past three months;

(b) if so, the details thereof, bankwise; and

(c) the reasons for such revisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) As per the information received from public sector banks, during the past three months most of them have not revised the minimum balance to be retained in the Savings Bank Accounts with cheque book facility and otherwise. Public sector banks prescribe the minimum balance to be maintained in such accounts after taking into account the cost of servicing such accounts etc.

Direct flight between Pune and Delhi

2036. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Members of Parliament have represented that PUNE/DELHI/PUNE direct flight of Indian Airlines should fly daily as earlier;

(b) why the said flight was discontinued on Tuesday and Thursday; and

(c) by when the daily flight will be resumed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Representations have been received from some Members of Parliament for daily operation of Indian Airlines service on Pune-Delhi-Pune sector.

(b) and (c) The frequency of the Pune-Delhi-Pune service was curtailed due to shortage of operating crew. Since the shortage is still persisting, Indian Airlines is at present not in a position to resume the daily service.

Behaviour of security personnel towards passengers at Airports

2037. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports about the inhuman and discourteous behaviour of the security men in the Airports towards the passengers; and

(b) whether steps will be taken to organsie separate security force under the control of Airport Authorities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) A few complaints about the discourteous behaviour by the airports security staff have been received.

(b) A proposal for constitution of Civil Aviation Security Force is under consideration.